

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for the distributed management of networked information, said method comprising:
creating a plurality of groups, each corresponding to a number of members;
establishing links between a number of said plurality of groups to create a network of groups;
designating information access rights associated with said network of groups;
and
providing member access to networked information in accordance with said information access rights.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising creating at least one subgroup associated with at least one of said plurality of groups.
3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising posting a piece of information for member access, wherein said designating step designates information access rights corresponding to specific members.
4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising posting a piece of information for member access, wherein said designating step designates information access rights corresponding to at least one of said plurality of groups.
5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising posting a piece of information for member access, wherein said designating step designates information access rights corresponding to specific member roles.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said creating step is performed in a decentralized manner by a plurality of end users.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said creating step further comprises identifying specific members in at least one of said plurality of groups.

8. A method according to claim 1, further comprising requesting, for a first one of said plurality of groups, access rights to resources maintained on behalf of a second one of said plurality of groups.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing step establishes two-way links between at least two of said plurality of groups.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing step establishes one-way links between at least two of said plurality of groups.

11. A method according to claim 1, further comprising limiting the number of groups through which networked information can be indirectly accessed by a member.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of groups functions as a collector of networked information maintained on behalf of at least one other group.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said at least one of said plurality of groups functions as an originator of networked information.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said information access rights are associated with said links, said plurality of groups, and said members.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said providing step provides member access to networked information in accordance with group access rights for said plurality of groups and in accordance with link access rights for said links.

16. A method for the distributed management of networked information, said method comprising:

establishing a network of linked groups, each group corresponding to a number of members;

designating information access rights for information maintained on behalf of at least one group in said network of linked groups; and

managing distribution of said information to at least some members of at least one group in said network in accordance with said information access rights.

17. A method for the distributed management of networked information, said method comprising:

establishing a network of linked groups, each group corresponding to a number of members;

determining a degree of relevance for networked information based at least in part on a group linking structure of said network; and

managing distribution of said networked information based on said degree of relevance.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein said determining step determines said degree of relevance based at least in part on end user settings.

19. A method according to claim 17, further comprising managing access to said networked information based on said degree of relevance.

20. A method according to claim 17, further comprising delivering said networked information to member presentation devices in a manner commensurate with said degree of relevance.

21. A method according to claim 17, wherein said determining step determines said degree of relevance based at least in part on the number of linked groups between a first group that maintains said networked information and a second group.

22. A method according to claim 17, wherein said determining step determines said degree of relevance based at least in part on a data flow path between a first group that maintains said networked information and a second group.

23. A method according to claim 17, further comprising creating context for said networked information in response to routing criteria.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein said routing criteria comprises at least one of:

a data flow path between a first group that maintains said networked information and a second group;

the identification of a recipient of said networked information;

security settings associated with said networked information;

access rights associated with said networked information; and

interaction of said networked information with members of said linked groups.

25. A method according to claim 23, wherein said creating step is performed using a number of neural agents.

26. A method according to claim 23, wherein said creating step is performed using a number of artificial intelligence techniques.